Action against officials responsible for accrual of damaged foodgrains

1542. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 273 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 2008 and state:

(a) what follow up action has been taken against 7 category-I officers and 47 category-II and III officers/officials of F.C.I, who have been found responsible for accrual of damaged foodgrains, totalling 2.49 lakh tonnes, causing loss of Rs. 157.48 crores, during past four years;

(b) whether any criminal cases have been registered and if so, their outcome;

(c) whether any of the defaulters have been suspended, removed from services etc.; and

(d) what steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such avoidable losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) After getting sanction from competent Authority in F.C.I, all the 7 category-I officers and 47 categories-II and III officers/officials are being prosecuted by CBI.

(b) Yes, Sir. The prosecution is under progress.

(c) Yes, Sir. 11 officers have been compulsorily retired and 10 have been dismissed.

(d) The following steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such avoidable losses:

(i) All FCI godowns to be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.

(ii) The adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals to be provided in all the godowns.

(iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments to be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests.

(iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

(v) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.

(vi) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

(vii) Only covered wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.